

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

1. (Currently Amended) Orthodontic appliance, which ~~consists, in full or in part, of~~ comprises a plastic material having a water absorption capacity and which is impregnated with a water-soluble additive that restrains the formation of plaque.
2. (Original) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, obtained by
  - moulding the orthodontic appliance from the plastic material;
  - impregnating the orthodontic appliance with the dissolved additive; and
  - drying the orthodontic appliance.
3. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the plastic material is moulded by injection moulding.
4. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~ characterised ~~in that~~ wherein prior to the impregnation process, any volatile components, ~~such as non polymerised formaldehyde,~~ are driven out from the orthodontic appliance.
5. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 4, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the volatile substances components are driven out by leaving the orthodontic appliance to soak in water that has been heated up to a temperature above room temperature, and that the orthodontic appliance is then dried.
6. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 4 ~~or Claim 5,~~ characterised ~~in that~~ wherein for driving out the volatile substances, the orthodontic appliance is exposed to a subatmospheric pressure.
7. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 6, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance is heated prior to or while being exposed to the subatmospheric pressure.
8. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 7, characterised ~~in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance is heated up to 40° Celsius to 60° Celsius.

9. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2,~~  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance is impregnated by leaving it  
to soak in an aqueous solution of the additive.
10. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 9,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solution is heated.
11. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 10,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the solution is heated up to 40° Celsius to 60° Celsius.
12. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the selected additive is one that has an antibacterial  
effect.
13. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance contains pores in which the  
additive is deposited.
14. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 13,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the orthodontic appliance contains micropores in which  
the additive is deposited.
15. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the plastic material is a polyoximethylene or a  
polyarylether ketone.
16. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive has a wetting property.
17. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes a wetting agent.
18. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 17,  
~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes an aminofluoride as a wetting  
agent.

19. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 18, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the wetting agent is N' - octadecyl trimethylenediamine - N,N,N' - tris (2-ethanol) - dihydrofluoride or 9 - octadecenylamine - hydrofluoride.
20. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the antibacterial additive is tin fluoride or includes tin fluoride.
21. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 20, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive includes tin fluoride in combination with an aminofluoride.
22. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the additive is or includes a derivative of hexamethylene bisguanide, ~~especially chlorohexidine digluconate.~~
23. (Currently amended) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein it is a bracket or a buccal tube.
24. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein the plastic material is moulded by injection moulding.
25. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein prior to the impregnation process, any volatile components, ~~such as non-polymerised formaldehyde,~~ are driven out from the orthodontic appliance.
26. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 5 wherein for driving out the volatile substances, the orthodontic appliance is exposed to a subatmospheric pressure.
27. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in Claim 2 wherein the orthodontic appliance is impregnated by leaving it to soak in an aqueous solution of the additive.
28. (New) The orthodontic appliance of claim 4 wherein the volatile components is or include non-polymerised formaldehyde.

29. (New) The orthodontic appliance of claim 25 wherein the volatile components is or include non-polymerised formaldehyde.
30. (New) The orthodontic appliance as defined in claim 1, wherein the additive is or includes chlorohexidine digluconate.